FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE
OLD TOXIC TRAINING AREA, PARCEL 188(7)
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA

ISSUED BY: U. S. ARMY

MARCH 2003

U.S. ARMY ANNOUNCES DECISION DOCUMENT

This Decision Document presents the determination that no further remedial action will be necessary to protect human health and the environment at the Old Toxic Training Area, Parcel 188(7), at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. In addition, this Decision Document provides the site background information used as the basis for the no further action decision. The location of the parcel at FTMC is shown on Figure 1.

This Decision Document is issued by the U.S. Army Garrison at FTMC with involvement by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team (BCT). The BCT consists of representatives from the U.S. Army, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4, and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. The BCT is responsible for planning and implementing environmental investigations at FTMC.

Based on the results of investigations completed at the Old Toxic Training Area, Parcel 188(7), the U.S. Army will implement no further action at the site. This decision was made by the U.S. Army with concurrence by the BCT.

This Decision Document summarizes site information presented in detail in background documents that are part of the administrative record for the Old Toxic Training Area, Parcel 188(7). The background documents for Parcel 188(7) are listed on Page 2 and are available at the public repositories listed on Page 3.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING SITE

FTMC is undergoing closure by the BRAC Commission under Public Laws 100-526 and 101-510. The 1990 Base Closure Act, Public Law 101-510, established the process by which U.S. Department of Defense installations would be closed or realigned. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program requires investigation and cleanup of federal properties prior to transfer to the public domain. In addition, the Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act (CERFA), Public Law 102-426, requires federal agencies to identify real property on military installations scheduled for closure that can be transferred to the public for redevelopment or reuse. Consequently, the U.S. Army is conducting environmental studies of the impact of suspected contaminants at parcels at FTMC. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC follows the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process.

SITE BACKGROUND

FTMC is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains of northeastern Alabama near the cities of Anniston and Weaver in Calhoun County. FTMC consists of two main areas of government-owned properties: the Main Post and Pelham Range. Until May 1998, the FTMC installation also included the Choccolocco Corridor, a 4,488-acre tract of land that was leased from the State of Alabama. The Main Post, which occupies 18,929 acres, is bounded on the east by the Choccolocco Corridor, which previously connected the Main Post with the Talladega National Forest. Pelham Range, which

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCEL 188(7)

EDAW, Inc., 1997, ***Fort McClellan Comprehensive Reuse Plan, Fort McClellan Reuse and Redevelopment Authority of Alabama***, November; Fort McClellan, Updated Reuse Map, Rev. March 2000.

Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. (ESE), 1998, ***Final Environmental Baseline Survey, Fort McClellan, Alabama***, prepared for U.S. Army Environmental Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, January.

IT Corporation (IT), 2000, ***Final Human Health and Ecological Screening Values and PAH Background Summary Report, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama***, July.

Parsons Engineering Science, Inc. (Parsons), 2002, ***Final Chemical Warfare Materiel (CWM) Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA), Fort McClellan, Alabama,*** June.

Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), 1998, ***Final Background Metals Survey Report, Fort McClellan, Alabama,*** July.

Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), 1993, ***Final Site Investigation Report, Fort McClellan, Alabama,*** August.

Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw), 2003, ***Final Site Investigation Report, Old Toxic Training Area, Parcel 188(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama***, March.

occupies 22,245 acres, is located approximately 5 miles due west of the Main Post and adjoins the Anniston Army Depot on the southwest.

The Old Toxic Training Area, Parcel 188(7), is located near the intersection of BG DH Stem Avenue and Rucker Street on the Main Post of FTMC (Figure 1). The "L"-shaped parcel is situated south and east of Building 3183. The parcel size shown in the environmental baseline survey (EBS) is approximately 1 acre (Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. [ESE], 1998).

The site was reportedly used for the detection and identification of distilled mustard (HD) and possibly other chemical warfare materials (CWM), as well as the use of decontamination agents, probably including supertropical bleach, decontamination agent, noncorrosive, and/or decontamination solution number 2. Some personnel recount training at this site using dilute HD, choking agents, blood agents, and nerve agent. The site was evidently used from the 1950s until at least the 1960s, although exact dates of operation could not be determined. Training reportedly involved the use of small amounts of CWM (ESE, 1998).

Training exercises reportedly occurred in an approximately 500-square-foot area in a ditch south of Building 3183. CWM was placed on the ground and decontaminated after each exercise. No spills were reported. Some personnel interviewed during the EBS recalled that live CWM training was conducted; however, other individuals did not. One individual interviewed believed that the Old Toxic Training Area was actually located east of Building 3183, not to the south as reported by others. Other personnel reported no knowledge of training activities at this location and relate walking across this location regularly during the 1960s and 1970s (ESE, 1998).

In 1993, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) conducted a site investigation (SI) in the training area ditch (SAIC, 1993). A total of four soil samples were collected from two locations along the center of the ditch at depths of between 1 and 5 feet. The samples were screened

PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES
FOR FORT McCLELLAN

Anniston Calhoun County Public Library
Reference Section
Anniston, Alabama 36201
Point of Contact: Ms. Sunny Addison
Telephone: (256) 237-8501
Fax: (256) 238-0474
Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Houston Cole Library
9th Floor
Jacksonville State University
700 Pelham Road
Jacksonville, Alabama 36265
Point of Contact: Ms. Rita Smith (256) 782-5249
Hours of Operation: Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

for HD using a miniature continuous air monitoring system. However, CWM agents were not detected above background readings. Additionally, CWM degradation products were not detected in the soil samples submitted for laboratory analysis.

In 2001, Parsons Engineering Science, Inc. (Parsons) conducted an engineering evaluation/cost analysis at the Old Toxic Training Area to address possible CWM at a second location, in the parking area east of Building 3183 (Parsons, 2002). Investigation activities included continuous air monitoring, soil sampling, and laboratory analysis of soil samples for chemical agents and breakdown products. No CWM items were observed during the intrusive investigation, and soil analytical results did not indicate the presence of chemical agents or breakdown products. Parsons concluded that human health risks from exposure to CWM at this site are very unlikely (Parsons, 2002).

SCOPE AND ROLE OF PARCEL

Information developed from the EBS was used to group areas at FTMC into standardized parcel categories using U.S. Department of Defense guidance (ESE, 1998). All parcels received a parcel designation for one of seven CERFA categories, or a non-CERCLA qualifier designation, as appropriate. Parcel 188(7) was categorized as a CERFA Category 7 parcel in the EBS. Category 7 parcels are areas that have not been evaluated or that require additional evaluation (ESE, 1998).

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcel 188(7) is re-categorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response.

SITE INVESTIGATION

Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw) conducted an SI at Parcel 188(7) to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the site

at concentrations that present an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment (Shaw, 2003). SI environmental sampling consisted of the collection and analysis of four surface soil samples, four subsurface soil samples, and four groundwater samples. Surface soil samples were collected from the uppermost foot of soil; subsurface soil samples were collected at depths greater than 1 foot below ground surface. Groundwater samples were collected from four monitoring wells installed at the site during the SI. Samples were analyzed for metals, volatile organic compounds, semivolatile organic compounds, and CWM breakdown products.

Metals, volatile organic compounds, and semivolatile organic compounds were detected in site media. CWM breakdown products were not detected in any of the samples collected at the site. To evaluate whether the detected constituents present an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment, the analytical results were compared to human health site-specific screening levels (SSSL) and ecological screening values (ESV) for FTMC (IT Corporation, 2000). The SSSLs and ESVs were developed as part of human health and ecological risk evaluations associated with SIs being performed under the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC. Additionally, metals and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon results exceeding SSSLs and ESVs were compared to background screening values (SAIC, 1998; IT Corporation, 2000). A preliminary human health risk assessment (PRA) and a preliminary ecological risk assessment (PERA) were also performed to further evaluate potential risks to human health and the environment (Shaw, 2003).

Although the site is projected for mixed business reuse (EDAW, Inc., 1997), the analytical data were screened against residential human health SSSLs to evaluate the site for unrestricted land reuse. Constituents of potential concern for the resident included six metals (aluminum, antimony, arsenic, chromium, iron, and vanadium) and benzo(a)pyrene in soils, and barium and nickel in groundwater. The PRA concluded, however, that exposure to site media does not pose an unacceptable risk for the resident.

Constituents of potential ecological concern (COPEC) identified in the PERA were six metals (aluminum, arsenic, beryllium, copper, selenium, and zinc) and several organic compounds in surface soil. The metals COPECs were determined not to pose a threat to ecological receptors. The organic COPECs were present at only one sample location, indicating that the areal extent of contamination is limited. Although species with small home ranges (e.g., mouse) living or feeding in the immediate area could potentially experience adverse affects, species with larger home ranges (e.g., deer) are unlikely to be adversely affected by the localized area of contamination. Furthermore, Parcel 188(7) is located within the developed portion of the FTMC Main Post and is projected for mixed business reuse.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Old Toxic Training Area, Parcel 188(7).

DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcel 188(7). No further action is selected because remedial action is unnecessary to protect human health and the environment at this site. The metals and chemical compounds detected in site media do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Therefore, the site is released for unrestricted land reuse. Furthermore, Parcel 188(7) is re-categorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response. The U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the Old Toxic Training Area, Parcel 188(3) (formerly Parcel 188[7]).

The following costs are associated with implementing the no-action alternative:

Capital Cost:	$0
Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs:	$0
Present Worth Cost:	$0
Months to Implement:	None
Remedial Duration:	None.

DECLARATION

Remedial action is unnecessary at the Old Toxic Training Area, Parcel 188(7). The no further action remedy protects human health and the environment, complies with relevant federal and state regulations, and is a cost-effective application of public funds. This remedy will not leave in place hazardous substances at concentrations that require limiting the future use of the parcel or that require land use control restrictions. The site is released for unrestricted land reuse. Parcel 188(7) is re-categorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response. There will not be any further remedial costs associated with implementing no further action at the Old Toxic Training Area, Parcel 188(3) (formerly Parcel 188[7]).

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Any questions or comments concerning this Decision Document or other documents in the administrative record can be directed to:

Mr. Ronald M. Levy
Fort McClellan BRAC
Environmental Coordinator
Tel: (256) 848-3539

E-mail: LevyR@mcclellan-emh2.army.mil

ACRONYMS

BCT	BRAC Cleanup Team
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
COPEC	constituent of potential ecological concern
CWM	chemical warfare material
EBS	environmental baseline survey
ESE	Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc.
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
HD	distilled mustard
Parsons	Parsons Engineering Science, Inc.
PERA	preliminary ecological risk assessment
PRA	preliminary human health risk assessment
SAIC	Science Applications International Corporation
Shaw	Shaw Environmental, Inc.
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level

Prepared under direction of:

Lee D. Coker
Environmental Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Mobile, Alabama

Date

Reviewed by:

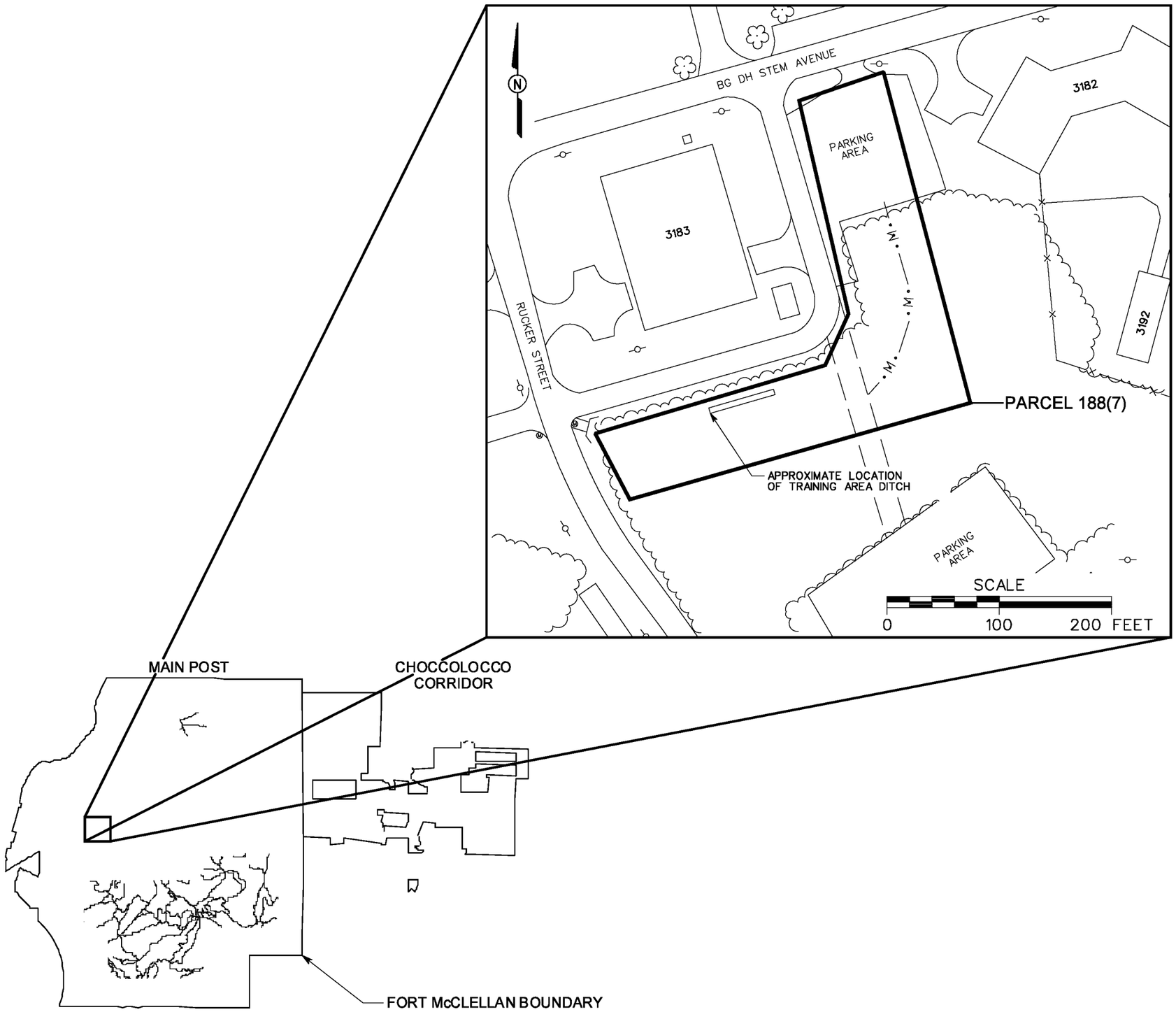
Ronald M. Levy
BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Fort McClellan, Alabama

Date

Approved by:

Glynn D. Ryan
Site Manager
Fort McClellan, Alabama

Date



LEGEND

- UNIMPROVED ROADS AND PARKING
- PAVED ROADS AND PARKING
- BUILDING
- TREES / TREELINE
- PARCEL BOUNDARY
- MANMADE SURFACE DRAINAGE FEATURE
- UNDERGROUND CULVERT WITH HEADWALL
- MANHOLE
- FENCE
- UTILITY POLE

FIGURE 1
SITE MAP
OLD TOXIC TRAINING AREA
PARCEL 188(7)

U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
MOBILE DISTRICT
FORT McCLELLAN
CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA
Contract No. DACA21-96-D-0018

Shaw™ Shaw Environmental, Inc.

DRAFT. CHCK. BY:
ENGR. CHCK. BY: S. MORAN
PROJ. MGR.: J. YACOUB
INITIATOR: T. WINTON
DWG. NO.: ...\796887es.505
PROJ. NO.: 796887

DATE LAST REV.:
DRAWN BY:
STARTING DATE: 07/31/02
DRAWN BY: D. BOMAR
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